

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICE 00008 061359Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /033 W
-----061420Z 091866 /42

R 061305Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL NICE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1245
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
AMCONSUL GENOA

UNCLAS NICE 08

E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS : PLAB, FR, MN
SUBJECT : STRIKE AT LOEWS MONTE CARLO HOTEL

1. SUMMARY

A STRIKE OF THE EMPLOYEES OF LOEWS MONTE-CARLO HOTEL (LOEWS CORPORATION OF NEW YORK) CAME TO A HEAD JANUARY 5, 1977 WHEN, IN SUPPORT OF LOEWS PERSONNEL, THE EMPLOYEES OF ALL HOTELS, CAFES AND RESTAURANTS IN THE PRINCIPALITY WENT ON A 24-HOUR STRIKE. BOTH THE MONEGASQUE POLICE AND DIRECTOR OF LOEWS HOTEL CONSIDER THE GENERAL MEETING/DEMONSTRATION OF THE STRIKERS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN THE EVENING OF 5 JANUARY TO BE A FAILURE AS ONLY 120 OF ALL HOTEL WORKERS IN MONACO ATTENDED. LOEWS' EMPLOYEES RETURNED TO WORK AT 10:00 A.M. 6 JANUARY IN SPITE OF THEIR DEMANDS NOT HAVING BEEN MET.
END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE DECEMBER 29, 1976 THE LOEWS' EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN
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ON STRIKE FOLLOWING THE REFUSAL OF THE HOTEL ADMINISTRATION TO GRANT A FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK. ACCORDING TO LOEWS' DIRECTOR, MR HENRI LORENZI, THE STRIKE WAS INSPIRED BY C.G.T./NICE SIMPLY BECAUSE LOEWS MONTE-CARLO IS AN AMERICAN ENTERPRISE AND, IN ADDITION, IS THE SOLE HOTEL ON THE COTE D'AZUR WHICH ACTUALLY SHOWED A PROFIT DURING 1976. LORENZI HAS INFORMED THE CONSULATE THAT HOTEL ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY

WAS NOT TO CONSIDER ANY TYPE OF EMPLOYEE DEMANDS WHILE STRIKE
IN PROGRESS BUT PROMISED TO NEGOTIATE SOLUTION TO CONFLICT
FOLLOWING END OF STRIKE.

3. STRIKERS' DECISION TO RESUME WORK ON JANUARY 6TH
FOLLOWED YESTERDAY'S MEETING BETWEEN THEIR DELEGATES,
LEADERS OF THE H.C.R. UNION (HOTELS, CAFES AND RESTAURANTS),
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "UNION DES SYNDICATS DE MONACO" AND
A MONEGASQUE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE. THE MEETING ENDED
WITH A PROMISE TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT
FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF STRIKE.

4. ASIDE FROM ALLEGED ORIGIN OF STRIKE AS ASSERTED BY LOEWS'
DIRECTOR, CONSULATE FEELS THAT UNREST MAY ALSO BE DUE, IN
PART, TO LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES INVOLVED.
FOR EXAMPLE, IN MID-DECEMBER, HOTEL PERSONNEL ALSO THREATENED
A STRIKE DUE TO HOTEL'S REFUSAL OF PAYMENT OF THIRTEENTH-
MONTH SALARY. DIRECTION WAS APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF THIRTEENTH CUSTOM.
.. THE PAYMENT WAS MADE FOLLOWING TWO INTENSIVE
WEEKS OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN PERSONNEL/HOTEL DIRECTORS AND NEW YORK
HEADQUARTERS. OTHER POINTS OF CONTENTION WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED
AND NEGOTIATED IN COMING WEEKS CONCERN FRENCH/MONEGASQUE/ITALIAN
SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS AS WELL AS COMPENSATION FOR HOLIDAY
WORK. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MORE THAN HALF OF LOEWS' 300-ODD
EMPLOYEES ARE ITALIANS LIVING IN THE BORDER TOWNS OF VENTIMIGLIA
OR BORDIGHERA.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, LABOR STRIKES, HOTELS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770005-1010
Format: TEL
From: NICE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770175/aaaacnqx.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8870b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3652375
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRIKE AT LOEWS MONTE CARLO HOTEL
TAGS: ELAB, FR, MN, US, LOEWS CORPORATION
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8870b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009